

R E M A R K S

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3-18 and 20-25 are pending in this application. Claims 2 and 19 have been canceled. Claim 25 has been added. Support for new claim 25 is found at page 41, line 6 to page 42, line 25. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 19. Claim 3 has been amended to recite that structural member (A) is a laminate of at least two layers. Support for this amendment is found at page 42, line 27. Claims 11 and 12 have been amended to remove any indefiniteness and claim 22 has been amended to change dependency. No new matter has been added by the above claim amendments.

Rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejects claim 3 as indefinite because it is allegedly unclear if the structural member (A) as two elements is a blend or a laminate. Applicants amend claim 3 to clearly recite that structural member (A) is a laminate of at least two layers. As such, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejects claims 11 and 12 as indefinite. Applicants amend the claims to clearly recite that the resin (a-2) is a resin composition comprising (i) at least one resin

selected from the Markush group and (ii) at least one resin that is a modified α -olefinic polymer. As such, the subject matter of claims 11 and 12 is clearly recited and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 102(b)

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 5, 9-11, 13, 14, 16 and 19 as anticipated by Koderia USP 4,250,661. Applicants traverse the rejection and respectfully request the withdrawal thereof.

Applicants amend claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2, which is free of this rejection. As such, claim 1 and all claims that depend therefrom are also free of this rejection. Thus, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 103(a)

The Examiner rejects claims 1-5, 9-11, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 19 as obvious over Koderia '661 in view of Blemberg USP 5,108,844 (Blemberg '844). Applicants traverse the rejection and respectfully request the withdrawal thereof.

Koderia '661 relates to a covering multi-layer film or sheet structure for agricultural application. As the Examiner acknowledges, Koderia does not disclose a laminate comprising a

third layer made of polyacetal resin. The Examiner relies on Blemberg for disclosing that, if layer X and Y are to be adhered together at least one adhesive layer or tie layer can be used, wherein the tie layer comprises a blend of some or all of the components of X and some or all the components of Y, to produce multi-layer films.

However, Koderia '661 and Blemberg '844 disclose only the multi-layer films or sheet-structures. On the other hand, the present invention is directed to thermoplastic resin integrated structures including, such as automobile parts, electric and electronic equipment parts, OA-related parts, various parts of industrial sundries, etc.

Moreover, the multi-layer films according to Koderia '661 and Blemberg '844 have large contact areas between each layer in relation to the product (i.e. film) as a whole. On the other hand, in the product according to the present invention, the contact area between the members may be rather small in relation to the product (such as, automobile parts) as a whole. Although Koderia '661 and Blemberg '844 disclose a film having better adhesion between the layers, they neither teach nor suggest that the members having small contact areas between each other can be integrated properly.

In addition, the films and sheet structures according to Kodera '661 are produced by extrusion molding, calendar method, extrusion laminating or multi-layer extrusion method, among which the multi-layer extrusion method is preferred. (See column 5, lines 28-42.) Similarly, the films according to Blemberg '844 are also prepared by co-extrusion. (See column 5, line 67 to column 6, line 64.)

On the other hand, in the structures according to the present invention, the structural member (A) and the structural member (B) are integrated together by welding. Therefore, these structures are produced by laying structural members molded in advance one on top of the other and fusing the structural members by a press molding machine, using a press hot plate as a heat source, followed by compression under pressure (See page 45, lines 7-13 of the specification.) There is a great deal of difference between the co-extrusion of a multi-layer film and the welding of the members molded in advance.

Since, Claim 1 is now limited to the structures wherein members (A) and (B) are integrated by welding and neither Kodera '661 nor Blemberg '844 discloses or suggests all of the elements of the present invention, Applicants submit that the rejection

should be withdrawn as no prima facie case of obviousness has been established

The Examiner also rejects claims 1, 5, 6, 9-11, 13, 14, 16 and 19 as obvious over Koderia '661 in view of Sakurai USP 4,377,667 (Sakurai '667). Applicants amend claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2 into claim 1. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn as claim 2 is free of this rejection.

The Examiner also rejects claims 7, 8, 12, 15 and 20 as obvious over Koderia '661 in view of Blemberg '844 and further in view of Matsuzaki USP 4,535,127 (Matsuzaki '127). Applicants rely on the arguments above regarding the lack of disclosure in Koderia '661 and Blemberg '844. Moreover, Matsuzaki '127 fails to compensate for the deficiencies in Koderia '661 and Blemberg '844. As such, this rejection should be withdrawn as well.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 19, 21 and 22 as obvious over JP 10-029276 (JP '276) in view of Blemberg '844. Applicants traverse the rejection and respectfully request the withdrawal thereof.

The Abstract of JP '276 discloses a laminated molding material containing a polyacetal resin layer and an olefin resin layer. Blemberg '844 is relied on for disclosing a laminated

multilayer film. Applicants rely on the arguments above regarding Blemberg '844 to overcome this rejection. Since JP '276 does not disclose or suggest the laminated multilayer film, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejects claim 18 as obvious over JP '276 in view of Blemberg '844 and further in view of JP 58-053953A (JP '953). The Examiner also rejects claims 7, 8, 12, 20, 23 and 24 as obvious over JP '276 in view of Blemberg '844 and further in view of Matsuzaki et al. USP 4,535,127 (Matsuzaki '127). Applicants traverse the rejections and respectfully request the withdrawal thereof.

Applicants again rely on the arguments above regarding the lack of disclosure in Blemberg '844 regarding the laminated multi-layer film. Inasmuch as the other cited references fail to compensate for this deficiency, Applicants request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

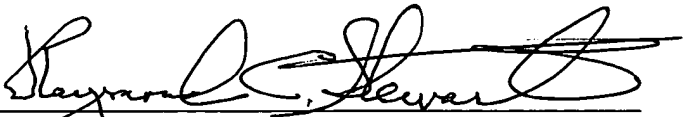
As Applicants have addressed and overcome all rejections in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and that the claims be allowed.


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Kecia Reynolds (Reg. No. 47,021) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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